

From: Durant, Jennah [Durant.Jennah@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/22/2019 3:11:35 PM
To: R6Press [R6Press@epa.gov]
Subject: Daily News Digest, Friday, March 22
Attachments: Daily News Digest 032219.pdf

****Please note: All articles are available in the attached PDF.***

****To receive the Daily News Digest in your inbox, email R6Press@epa.gov.***

1 – ITC has few answers for community after Deer Park tank fires, ABC 13, 3/22/19

<https://abc13.com/itc-has-few-answers-for-community-after-deer-park-tank-fire/5211179/>

Thursday, we heard another tearful apology from the company at the center of this mess. Intercontinental Terminal Company spokesperson Alice Richardson told reporters through tears, "ITC cares. We care a lot. We have been good stewards, we've been good neighbors... We will fix it and we will make this right."

2 - Benzene spike detected near Deer Park plant; no shelter-in-place issued, Houston Chronicle, 3/22/19

<https://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Benzene-spike-detected-near-Deer-Park-plant-No-13708409.php>

An air quality monitor near the Deer Park chemical storage facility where several tanks exploded and burned for days picked up a spike in benzene levels Friday morning, but officials say a shelter-in-place order isn't necessary.

3 - Deer Park fire investigations begin amid anxiety over emissions, pollution, Houston Chronicle, 3/22/19

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Deer-Park-fire-investigations-begin-amid-anxiety-13707427.php>

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board on Wednesday announced it would investigate the three-day chemical blaze at the International Terminals Co., hours after emissions of carcinogenic benzene spiked near the Deer Park plant, prompting city officials to order residents to shelter in place for most of the morning.

4 - Researchers, local agencies collecting water samples from Galveston Bay after ITC fire, KHOU, 3/22/19

<https://www.khou.com/article/news/local/itc-fire/researchers-local-agencies-collecting-water-samples-from-galveston-bay-after-itc-fire/285-32a18b9d-d530-4ad9-8888-8bf38cfbbdb1>

The Environmental Defense Fund and Texas A&M University researchers said they will collect water samples from Galveston Bay to measure what pollutants might be flowing from the shipping channel near the ITC fire, according to the Associated Press.

5 - Shelter-in-place order lifted for Texas city where chemicals facility burned for 3 days, CBS News, 3/22/19

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/deer-park-texas-chemicals-facility-fire-shelter-in-place-benzene-live-updates-2019-03-21/>

Authorities on Thursday lifted a shelter-in-place order hours after warning people to stay indoors because high levels of benzene were detected in the air near a scorched petrochemicals storage facility outside of Houston. Officials in Deer Park, Texas, said there was a sustained period of improved air quality readings in the area and lifted the order late Thursday morning.

6 – EPA, LDEQ want Mosaic to resume water removal from shifting gypsum stack, The Lens NOLA, 3/21/19

<https://thelensnola.org/2019/03/21/epa-ldeq-want-mosaic-to-resume-water-removal-from-shifting-gypsum-stack/>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has asked Mosaic Fertilizer to resume removing wastewater from its reservoir atop its Gypsum Stack No. 4 in St. James Parish, despite the company reaching its objective of lowering that water below an elevation of 180 feet. But Mosaic told The Lens that the company has not decided to do so — even as the EPA cast doubt on the company's model used to determine the stability of the reservoir itself.

7 – Liquid livestock waste permit transfer causing a stink at the Arkansas Capitol, KATV, 3/21/19

<https://katv.com/news/local/liquid-livestock-waste-permit-transfer-causing-a-stink-at-the-arkansas-capitol>

An effort to move regulatory authority on liquid livestock waste permits over to another state entity is causing a stink at the Arkansas State Capitol.

8 - Department of Environmental Quality says Bella Vista fire will have to be dug up, Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 3/22/19

<https://www.nwaonline.com/news/2019/mar/22/departments-of-environmental-quality-say/>

Putting out the underground landfill fire in Bella Vista will require digging the waste up, the state Department of Environmental Quality announced Thursday. "The site must be excavated to ensure that the underground fire is extinguished and will not reignite," the agency said in a statement released Thursday.

9 – New Mexico seeks to withdraw from federal water lawsuit, Santa Fe New Mexican, 3/22/19

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/new-mexico-seeks-to-withdraw-from-federal-water-lawsuit/article_db351f68-a393-5b0e-a63b-58e9eebcbe8c.html

The New Mexico Environment Department wants to withdraw from a lawsuit that challenges a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rule initiated during the last term of President Barack Obama that significantly increased the amount of surface water subject to federal protections.

10 – Texas schools have dangerous levels of lead in drinking water, advocates say, Dallas Morning News, 3/21/19

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2019/03/21/texas-schools-dangerous-levels-lead-drinking-water-advocates-say>

Texas is failing students by not doing enough to protect them from dangerous levels of lead in drinking water, representatives from environmental groups said Thursday.

11 – Forecasters: 'Potentially historic' flooding threatens South, Mississippi Business Journal, 3/21/19

<https://msbusiness.com/2019/03/forecasters-potentially-historic-flooding-threatens-south/>

Scientists are warning that historic flooding could soon deluge parts of several Southern states along the lower Mississippi River, where floodwaters could persist for several weeks.

12 – In lawsuit, Arkansas farmers, landowners blame Corps for flood losses, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 3/22/19

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2019/mar/22/farmers-suit-blames-corps-for-flood-loss-1/?news-arkansas>

A group of 131 Arkansas farmers and landowners who live and work along the White River and its tributaries -- mostly in Prairie and Monroe counties -- sued the federal government Thursday, saying the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' management of the waterways has allowed floodwaters to destroy their livelihoods and homesteads.